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INTRODUCTION.

THE documents which the Historical Society of Southern California here offers to the public will be considered, the Society ventures to hope, welcome contributions to the treasure now laid up in the storehouse of students of the history of the Pacific coast, especially that of California, and of some interest to the general reader. It is believed that these documents, excepting only the last two, the diaries of Fathers Crespi and de la Peña, have not been published heretofore—certainly not in this country.

The privilege of publishing these documents the Society owes to the kindness of Mr. Adolph Sutro, of San Francisco. Mr. Sutro caused a search for documents relating to the history of California to be made in that great magazine of Spanish-American history, the India archives of Seville, and his agents succeeded in unearthing these buried treasures. They were submitted by Mr. Sutro to this society for examination and were found to be of such value that the generosity of the lender was taxed still further by a request that their publication by the Society should be sanctioned by him, a request which was granted at once. In addition to this, it is well to add, Mr. Sutro has aided otherwise and very materially in their publication.

The very voluminous series of books published, quite recently, by Mr. H. H. Bancroft, of San Francisco, contains a general summary of a very great part of the printed matter relating to the history of California, but it is evident that, at least so far as the early history of the Californian coast is concerned, only a very limited number of original manuscripts, and these easily accessible to the public, were examined. If any examination of the India archives at Seville was attempted, it must have been made very superficially, for a perusal of the books published by Mr. Bancroft will show that of the nineteen documents now printed the existence of all but two or three was unknown to the writers employed by that gentleman; and, possibly because the outlying province of California was of such little importance to the earlier historians of

cisatlantic Spain, these documents escaped the notice of Torquemada and other Spanish authors beyond whose researches the writers referred to apparently have not cared to venture. A perusal of these Spanish historians will enable the student to verify this latter assertion ; that Mr. Bancroft's writers were equally careless will appear more fully in foot-notes appended to the documents now published.

Three of the documents now put in type are printed from photolithographic copies of the originals, even the color to which the ink of these originals has faded being reproduced carefully, made for Mr. Sutro, in 1883 and 1884, by express permission of the King of Spain, and certified by the signature and official seal of the keeper of the *Archivo General de Indias* at Seville. These three documents are the letter which Sebastian Vizcaino wrote at Monterey Bay on the 28th December, 1602, and the two letters of President Junípero Serra to the Viceroy of Mexico. A fac-simile of President Serra's letter, of 7th October, 1774, is given as a frontispiece to this publication. The authenticity of the other sixteen documents is unquestionable also.

It has been thought proper to print the Spanish *verbatim et literatim*, the capitalization and punctuation also being carefully adhered to, for in this way the documents can not but be of more value to the scholar. Translations are appended for the use of the general reader ; and, although at times the meaning of the original is much obscured by the singularly involved and otherwise ungrammatical style of the writer, it is believed that in the translation, in every instance, the statements of the writer have been presented with accuracy.

It has been thought advisable to print all the documents relating to the same subject together and in the order of their dates, the repetition of matter contained in the foot-notes thus being avoided.

GEO. BUTLER GRIFFIN,

President of the Historical Society of Southern California.

LOS ANGELES, 1st November, 1891.